

**Amendments to the Claims**

This listing of claims will replace all prior listings of claims in the application.

**Listing of Claims**

1. (Canceled)

2. (Currently Amended) A tire vulcanizing apparatus comprising:

tire loading means for loading a green tire at a tire loading position and moving the green tire to a tire supplying position and comprising means for grasping and releasing the green tire;

tire elevating means for removing the green tire from the tire loading means, raising the green tire and lowering the green tire into a lower mold at the tire supplying position;

a lower mold for receiving the green tire at the tire supplying position and moving the green tire to a tire vulcanization position;

an upper mold for lowering onto the lower mold containing the green tire, vulcanizing the green tire therebetween and raising the vulcanized tire from the lower mold at the tire vulcanization position; and

movement means for simultaneously moving the tire loading means and the lower mold in a reciprocating manner between the respective positions;

wherein the tire loading means and the lower mold are integrally connected with each other.

3.-5. (Canceled)